

McGill University
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Winter Term 2022

POLI 450

Peacebuilding

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Rex Brynen (he/him)
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CLASS HOURS: MW 1305-1425 (ARTS W-120)

The course will consist of lectures, plus optional activities. These optional peacebuilding activities will be scheduled at different times and days—you will need to take part in some to earn full participation grades, but which ones you attend will be entirely up to you.

OFFICE HOURS: **Individual or group office hours meetings** will take place via Zoom, generally on Thursdays and Fridays. Email me with your availability to schedule one of these. I am also usually available for short in-person meetings immediately after class.

IMPORTANT: If anything in the course is unclear, or if the COVID-19 pandemic or other issues are interfering with your studies, please reach out to let me know and I will do my best to make to make appropriate adjustments. Assistance is also available via the McGill Student Wellness Hub (<https://www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub/>).

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

Course Description

This course explores transitions from civil conflict to peace. Topics will include conflict prevention, complex humanitarian operations, peace negotiations, the challenges of coordination, peacekeeping operations, refugees and IDPs, the demobilization of ex-combatants, transitional elections, and the politics of social and economic reconstruction.

Prerequisites

Students are required to have taken at least one previous course in comparative politics. Previous coursework in international relations is strongly recommended.

Course Requirements and Grading

Peacebuilding activity credits (until March 31)	10%
Quiz 1 (January 27-28)	5%
Quiz 2 (February 23-24)	5%
Quiz 3 (March 31-April 1)	10%
Team research paper (6-12,000 words, due March 28)	40%
Final examination (university-scheduled)	30%

Peacebuilding activity credits: Each "peacebuilding activity credit" is worth 1% of your final grade, up to a maximum of 10%. These can be earned by participating in scenario exercises and simulations, attending visiting speakers and conferences, taking short online virtual courses, and certain other pre-approved extra-curricular activities (including participation in McMUN and other model UNs). To assure accessibility, these will be scheduled at various times on various days. The last date for earning such credits is March 31. Full details will be posted to myCourses.

Quizzes: Multiple-choice, open-book quizzes will take place via myCourses, covering all course material up to the start of each quiz. Each will be available for 2 days.

Team research paper: Groups of 2-4 students will prepare a 7-12,000-word comparative policy assessment of a key dimension of peacebuilding/reconstruction efforts. The maximum length of the paper depends on the size of the group:

- two students: 7,000 words
- three students: 10,000 words
- four students: 12,000 words

If you wish to write a 5,000-word solo paper instead you may do so, but you will receive a 5% (-2/40) penalty for not being part of a group.

Unless otherwise approved, the paper should: i) provide an overview of an important peacebuilding challenge, ii) identify the policy mechanisms used to address this in the context of 3-5 different transitional countries; iii) assess the utility of these instruments, and the factors shaping policy effectiveness; iv) assess the overall success or failure in each case and suggests lessons to be learned. All topics must be approved in advance by email by the course instructor by **15 February**. The research paper is due in class on **March 28**, or may be submitted late on April 4 with a 10% (-4/40) penalty. It may not be submitted after this second date without a documented medical (or similar) excuse.

Final exam: This will consist of longer essay questions. The exam will be made available (via myCourses) 72 hours before the scheduled exam date and will be due (via myCourses) at the time scheduled by the university.

Important Fine Print

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Also, it is important to note that incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with severely. If you are unsure of what plagiarism is or how to identify your sources, ask your teaching assistant. MCGILL UNIVERSITY VALUES ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. THEREFORE, ALL STUDENTS MUST UNDERSTAND THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF CHEATING, PLAGIARISM AND OTHER ACADEMIC OFFENCES UNDER THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

Lecture Topics, Readings, and Schedule

1. Introduction

- what is peacebuilding?
- civil conflict in the late 20th and 21st centuries
- conflict analysis

ACCORD, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* (2015), Chapters 1-3.

World Bank and United Nations, *Pathways to Peace* (2018), Chapters 1, 4, 5 (contemporary violence, why people fight, what people fight over).

2. Conflict Prevention

- early warning
- instruments for conflict prevention

World Bank and United Nations, *Pathways to Peace* (2018), Chapters 2, 3, 8 (prevention, pathways, pursuing pathways).

3. Gender and peacebuilding

- gender, conflict, peace, and reconstruction

ACCORD, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* (2015), Chapter 5.

4. Humanitarian assistance

- aid and conflict
- operational challenges

UN OCHA, *Global Humanitarian Overview 2021*, read the Foreword, At A Glance, and Global Achievements.

UN OCHA, *To Stay and Deliver: Good Practice for Humanitarians in Complex Security Environments* (2011), Glossary, Executive Summary, and Conclusions and Recommendations.

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 159-168 (humanitarian assistance).
 24 *Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship* (2018).

5. Mediation and negotiation

- conflict mediation
- SRSGs and other mediators
- peace agreements

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 9-33 (SRSG, political affairs).

UN OCHA, *Guidelines on Humanitarian Negotiations with Armed Groups* (2006), Summary and Quick Reference (+skim remainder).

6. Peacekeeping and stabilization operations

- the evolution of UN and other peacekeeping (and stabilization) operations
- mandates, neutrality, and impartiality
- force generation and burden-sharing
- protection of civilians

UN DPKO and DFS, *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines* (2008), Chapters 1-3.

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 55-70 (military).

7. Challenges of coordination

- issues and architectures
- local ownership

ACCORD, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* (2013), chapters 4, 7-8.

World Bank and United Nations, *Pathways to Peace* (2018), Chapters 7-8.

8. Refugees and internally-displaced persons

- protection
- durable solutions
- the challenge of refugee-warriors

UNHCR, *Global Trends 2020*. (2021), Trends At a Glance, Chapters 1-3.

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 169-181 (refugees).

9. Demilitarization

- demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants
- mines, UXO, and other ERW
- security sector reform

Cornelis Steenken, *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR): A Practical Overview* (Peace Operations Training Institute, 2017).

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 71-82 (mines).

10. Governance, democratization, and human rights

- political transitions and the role of the international community
- transitional justice
- building good governance

UN DPKO, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (2003), pp. 35-44, 83-112, 147-158 (civil affairs, rule of law, human rights, electoral assistance).

World Bank and United Nations, *Pathways to Peace* (2018), Chapter 6.

Mission Zobia, at <https://www.missionzobia.org>

11. Aid, fragility, and post-conflict development

- needs assessment
- institution-building, public sector support
- role of IFIs, NGOs

ACCORD, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* (2015), Chapter 6.

International Dialogue on Statebuilding and Peacebuilding, *Snapshot: A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* (2011).

World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (2011), Chapters 3-5 (transforming institutions).

12. Conclusion

DATE	TOPIC
January 5	Introduction to POLI 450
January 10	Introduction to peacebuilding
January 12	Introduction to peacebuilding
<i>January 17</i>	<i>Stakeholder consultation exercise</i>
January 19	Conflict prevention
January 24	Conflict prevention
January 26	Gender and peacebuilding
January 27-28	Quiz 1 (online via myCourses)
January 31	Humanitarian assistance
February 2	Humanitarian assistance
February 7	<i>READY exercise</i>
February 9	Mediation and negotiation
February 14	Mediation and negotiation
February 16	Peacekeeping and stabilization operations
February 21	Peacekeeping and stabilization operations
February 23	Challenges of coordination
February 23-24	Quiz 2 (online via myCourses)
<i>February 28</i>	<i>Reading break</i>
<i>March 2</i>	<i>Reading break</i>
March 7	Refugees and IDPs
March 9	Refugees and IDPs
March 14	Demilitarization
March 16	Demilitarization
<i>March 21</i>	<i>Scenario exercise</i>
March 23	Governance, democratization, human rights
March 28	Governance, democratization, human rights
March 30	Aid, fragility, post-conflict development
March 31-April 1	Quiz 3 (online via myCourses)
April 4	Aid, fragility, post-conflict development
April 6	<i>Shuboy exercise</i>
April 11	Conclusion
KEY	
lecture	Lecture material will appear on the quizzes and exams.
activity	These are optional but will count towards your simulation activity credits. They should also help you understand the course material better. Space may be limited.
quiz	Quizzes are conducted via myCourses.
<i>no class</i>	<i>You do not have class on these dates.</i>

Bibliography

There is no single textbook for the course. Instead, emphasis is on primary source materials of the sort used by peacebuilding practitioners. All links are current at the time of writing—please report any problems accessing materials

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, *ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook* 2nd edition (Durban: ACCORD, 2015), at <http://www.accord.org.za/publication/accord-peacebuilding-handbook/>

International Dialogue on Statebuilding and Peacebuilding, *Snapshot: A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* (2011), at https://www.pbsbdialogue.org/media/filer_public/07/69/07692de0-3557-494e-918e-18df00e9ef73/the_new_deal.pdf

Cornelis Steenken, *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR): A Practical Overview* (Peace Operations Training Institute, 2017), at https://cdn.peaceopstraining.org/course_promos/DDR/DDR_english.pdf

24 Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship (2018), at <https://www.ghdinitiative.org/ghd/gns/principles-good-practice-of-ghd/principles-good-practice-ghd.html>

United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, *Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping* (New York: United Nations, 2003), at https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/peacekeeping-handbook_un_dec2003_0.pdf

United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines* (New York: United Nations, 2008), <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/blog/document/united-nations-peacekeeping-operations-principles-and-guidelines-the-capstone-doctrine/>

United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, *Civil Affairs Handbook* (New York: United Nations, 2012), at https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/civil_affairs_handbook.pdf

United Nations Development Programme, *Gender Approaches in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations* (New York: UNDP, 2002), at <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-approaches-in-conflict-and-post-conflict-situations-.html>

United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Resource Centre, *What is DDR?* (2014), at http://www.unDDR.org/what-is-ddr/introduction_1.aspx

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *UNHCR Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2020*. (Geneva: UNHCR, 2021), at <https://www.unhcr.org/statistics/unhcrstats/60b638e37/global-trends-forced-displacement-2020.html>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Guidelines on Humanitarian Negotiations with Armed Groups*, (New York: OCHA, January 2006), at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/46924d492.html>

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *To Stay and Deliver: Good Practice for Humanitarians in Complex Security Environments* (2011), at <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/stay-and-deliver-good-practice-humanitarians-complex-security-environments-enar>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Global Humanitarian Overview 2021*, at: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GHO2021_EN.pdf

United States Army, *FM 3-07 Stability* (Washington DC, August 2016), at http://pksoi.armywarcollege.edu/default/assets/File/jp3_07.pdf

World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (Washington DC: World Bank, 2011), at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/WDR2011_Full_Text.pdf

World Bank and United Nations, *Pathways to Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Deadly Conflict* (Washington DC: World Bank, 2018), at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28337>